



THE Outlook

May 17, 2005

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Soldiers prove they're ready to find, fight the enemy

2-503d Paratroopers deal heavy blow to Taliban

By Pfc. Jon H. Arguello
173d Brigade Public Affairs

QALAT, Afghanistan (Army News Service, May 9, 2005) – Paratroopers from the 173d Airborne Brigade engaged a Taliban force last week in a remote valley of southeastern Afghanistan after an outnumbered scout patrol held out for 2.5 hours against heavy insurgent attack.

The May 3 battle in the Arghandab Valley, about 175 miles northeast of Kandahar, was part of the Coalition's spring offensive, dubbed "Operation Determined Resolve," with the aim of denying sanctuary to insurgents in preparation for fall elections, said a spokesman for Combined Joint Task Force 76.

Initial reports indicate about 20 insurgents were killed and one wounded in the battle.

One Afghan National Police officer was killed and five wounded, and six U.S. service members were wounded, four of whom belonged to the 2d Battalion, 503d Infantry (Airborne).

The battle took shape after scouts in the Zabul Province received intelligence reports that insurgent forces happened to be in the same area. A group of seven scouts from the 2-503d Inf (Abn) and 14 Afghan National Police headed toward the suspected location.

"We had been working with local police," said Staff Sgt. Patrick Brannon, scout squad leader. "Some of the information we had received led us to 18,000 DshKa heavy machine gun rounds, so we new their information was legitimate."

Further intelligence reports placed 80 – 150 Taliban operating in the area.

"We were informed that the Taliban were threatening the people for cooperating with Coalition forces," said Brannon.

"We moved east through a valley," said Spc. Joseph Leatham, describing the movement toward the Taliban position. "We were surrounded by walls – steep cliffs. It was a very uncomfortable feeling."

Ten minutes into the trip, an Afghan man approached the convoy. The man had been recently released by the Taliban after having been beaten and threatened with execution for cooperation with Coalition forces.

"The guy said he was about to be executed and that there were about 30 Taliban in the area," said Sgt. Nick Pak. "He had a note around his neck threatening the people and demanding that there be no schools."



Scouts from 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry (Airborne) pose with their interpreter during operations in Deh Rawood. Top row from left to right: Spc. Joseph Leatham, Sgt. Michael Ortiz, 2-503rd Inf (Abn) translator who goes by "Rock" and Sgt. Nick Pak. Bottom row from left to right: Spc. Nicolas Conlon and Pfc. Nathan Reilly. (Photo courtesy of 2-503d Inf (Abn) scouts.)

While explaining what had happened, two Taliban members were spotted and identified by the man. Once confirmed as Taliban, the Afghan National Police opened fire. Almost simultaneously, the convoy began receiving small arms fire from multiple directions.

The scouts received approval to engage the enemy and sent a sniper team to an over-watch position.

"As soon as we got to the top, we got RPG [rocket-propelled grenade] and small arms fire," said Spc. Nicholas Conlon, a scout sniper.

"Pieces of rocks were breaking off all around us," added sniper team leader Sgt. Derek Huss. "One [RPG] hit real close."

At this point, all the scouts were engaged in a heavy exchange of fire.

The scouts attempted to seal off the objective so the enemy could not escape. The fierce exchange was ordered to continue

so that reinforcements could trap the Taliban and eliminate them. The outnumbered scouts engaged and re-engaged the insurgent forces three times before reinforcement from friendly forces could arrive.

"The enemy was trying to overrun our truck, so we broke contact," said Brannon.

As the Scouts tried to maneuver into a better position, one of the Humvees took several rocket-propelled grenade hits and burst into flames.

"I yelled 'You're on fire! You're on fire!' to the other truck," said Pak.

The truck's gunner continued to fire his .50-cal machine gun as the Humvee was engulfed in flames.

"The truck was on fire but Leatham was still rocking the .50-cal," said Pak.

"The truck started rolling backwards," said Leatham. "I was still shooting and Sergeant Huss was trying to stop the truck. Sergeant Brannon was providing cover fire so I could get out of the vehicle."

"We were pinned down pretty bad," said

Sgt. Michael Ortiz, the assigned medic. "At that point, Chosen Company tried to land but they couldn't."

"I laid down suppressive fire with the Mk-19 so the bird could land," said Pfc. Nathan Reilly. "The landing zone was really hot and they couldn't land."

As much as the scouts laid down cover fire the landing zone was taking too much fire for the reinforcements to land. The scouts, who had been engaged in the firefight for more than two and a half hours, watched as the CH-47 Chinook aborted the landing and flew away.

"You can't imagine how scary it is to be in a fire fight like this and after two and a half hours of fighting, to see the support leave," Ortiz said.

"The scouts were in contact and at that point we were a QRF [quick reaction force]," said 1st Lt. Les Craig, platoon leader of 1st Platoon, or the "Bullies" as they are called by Chosen Company.

"We got reports that the landing zone was hot while we were in the air," said Craig. "The other friendly forces that had landed were already in contact."

The helicopter finally was able to land and 1st Platoon's "Bullies" poured from the Chinook ready to relieve the embattled scouts.

Although 1st Platoon didn't receive any immediate fire, suspicious activity was all around.

"I was trying to get a feel of where our Soldiers were," said Craig.

"We knew there were bad guys but we didn't know where they were," said Sgt. 1st

See Fire Fight on page 4

Caserma Ederle road work update

Throughout the month of May, Olson Avenue, from the post chapel to the Ederle Inn, will experience ongoing paving operations, as will the post exchange parking areas.

From May 27 through June 4 traffic will be restricted to one lane from the Post Office to the Ederle Inn.

Motorists driving past the post office toward the Ederle Inn will be required to continue driving down past the sports field and come back along 9th Street-the road that runs in front of the U.S. Army

Health Clinic-Vicenza and Fitness Center. There will be no parking on Olson Avenue near the post office and parking at the Vicenza Schools will be extremely limited.

These dates are subject to weather conditions, naturally if we experience rain, the road may be closed longer.

The command asks that community members use caution while driving or walking in these congested areas and be alert to construction vehicles and pedestrians.

San Bortolo Hospital changes phone numbers

Effective immediately, all telephone numbers at the San Bortolo Hospital beginning with the prefix "99" have changed to the prefix "75."

For example, the old Patient Liaison Desk number of 0444-99-3300 is now 0444-75-3300.

Chaplain promoted in Afghanistan

By Sgt. Tara Teel
CJTF-76 Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD—His smile and attitude are contagious around Bagram. To those he works with, he is known as Father. He is now called Lt. Col. Joseph Fleury, Combined Joint Task Force-76 Catholic priest.

Fleury was promoted May 3 at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, by the CJTF-76 commanding general, Maj. Gen. Jason Kamiya, with a crowd of friends and supporters in attendance.

“This is the best job I have ever had,” said Fleury about his 17 years of service in the Army as a priest. “The best part is being right out there with the Soldiers.”

He travels anywhere from three days to two weeks at a time visiting the forward operating bases and firebases where service members are located, preaching and listening to the troops.

“The Soldiers are always so grateful to have someone take an interest in them and visit them in the remote areas that don’t get a lot of attention,” Fleury said. “They give you so much more than we [the chaplains] could ever give them.”

Fleury described how he spent Easter this year on a quest with a Protestant chaplain to

hold a service at every FOB and firebase in Afghanistan. The trip began at day break, ended around sunset, and fell two bases short of their goal.

“One of the Soldiers at Mass said to me, ‘We were hoping that you would come back’ and that is something I will never forget,” said Fleury. “That is what Easter is all about – hope and resurrection. It was the best and most gratifying, but tiring, Easter of my life and I will never forget it.”

Fleury held a memorial service at the site of the April 6 helicopter crash that claimed the lives of 18 comrades.

He took 18 crosses and 18 sets of identification tags, placed them on the sacred ground of the site and blessed them, leaving one set behind.

“I buried a cross and set of dog tags at the scene so they would be there for eternity,” Fleury explained.

He gave each family who lost someone in the crash a cross and set of tags hoping that they would get some closure with something that was at the site.

According to Fleury, there are two Catholic chaplains in the Army who are 69 years old and he claims he is going to be another one.

“It has been a wonderful journey,” he said. “And I am going to stay at it until I am needed in another place.”

Community Action Council

This forum is to discuss issues that affect the community.

If you have an issue that you would like to submit, visit the 22nd Area Support Group Web site at www.22asg.vicenza.army.mil and click on the Community Action Council link. This link provides you the opportunity to review issues that have been previously submitted and responded to by post agencies. There is also a form available for you to submit any new issue you would like addressed.

If you have questions, call 634-5222 or 0444-71-5222 from off post. The command encourages you to identify yourself when submitting a CAC issue in order to be able to answer your concern directly.

Childcare is offered during the CAC at \$2.50 per hour, per child for children ages 6 weeks through kindergarten from 8:45-11:15 a.m. Preregistration is required. Children will be cared for in the Child Development Center, Building 395. Children must be registered with Child and Youth Services Central Registration. Call 634-7219 or stop by their new location in Davis Family Readiness Center.

The next CAC meeting is May 25 at 9 a.m. in the Ederle Theater.

Issue: I’m wondering what is going on with service at AAFES establishments. A few weeks ago I stopped in the Burger King drive after work and waited 45 minutes. I got out of my car and asked to see the manager. She stated there was a hiring “Freeze” and “Sorry.”

I recently stopped by Cinnabon to get a cup of coffee. There were five people in front of me, and the employee was trying to man both the Cinnabon and Baskin Robbins counters. After waiting 20 minutes, I went in the post exchange for a newspaper.

The sign on the wall says “More than three people in line, we will open another register.”

Well, there were about 12 people at each of the two open registers. I asked why they wouldn’t open another and the cashier stated that there was a hiring freeze and “sorry.”

That is the biggest complaint I hear from soldiers all over SETAF is that there are not enough employees. Is there a hiring freeze? Can we not keep employees? Soldiers should not have to spend 95 percent of their allotted lunch time in line waiting for one employee to try and fill all orders.

Response from AAFES: AAFES apologizes that you had to wait for 45 minutes at our Burger King or at any other AAFES facility and, at the same time thanks you for your patronage. This has been a challenging time for us, as well as for the installation. AAFES did not have hiring freeze; the issue was that there were several temporary employees and their contracts were ending, thus the shortage of staff.

Concerning the delay at the Cinnabon, we had an employee resign without giving notice. AAFES has since fixed this situation. We have cross-trained associates from other concepts to step in and assist.

Unfortunately, our workforce has also been hit by an illness that saw three to five employees off work at the same time.

As a reminder, we have to work with our Italian COE (Conditions of Employment) where our Italians are authorized their permissive, leave, Rest Days, etc. These are of course our internal concerns.

Lastly, we were unprepared for the busloads of students from Germany coming to play sports here. AAFES now has this under control. The post will inform us in advance so we can be prepared for large groups. Our staffing and associates contracts are being reviewed/ revised to provide adequate coverage and exceptional customer service, and our associates are being cross-trained where permitted.

What drives *your* life?

For the next 38 weeks, the 22nd Area Support Group Chaplain’s Family Life office, in partnership with deployed SETAF and 173rd Airborne Brigade chaplains, is writing a series of devotional articles based on the best-selling book, “A Purpose Driven Life,” by Pastor Rick Warren.

The intent of these articles is to offer the deployed Soldiers and their family members a devotional meditation which can be used as a weekly discussion and to deepen their spiritual connection during their separation.

Warren’s book is a 40-chapter spiritual journey that seeks to transform your answer to life’s most important question: “What on earth are we here for?” Knowing God’s purpose for creating you will reduce your stress, focus your energy, simplify your decisions, give meaning to your life, and, most importantly, prepare you for eternity.

The book is a blueprint for living in the 21st Century – a lifestyle based on God’s eternal purposes, not cultural values.

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Doug Hudson
22nd ASG Chaplain

“And I saw that all labor and all achievement spring from man’s envy of his neighbor. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.”

– (NKJV)

“The man without a purpose is like a ship without a rudder – a waif, a nothing, a no man.”

– Thomas Carlyle

What is the driving force in your life? Rev. Warren gives us five of the driving forces common to humanity.

They are:

1. Many people are driven by guilt. They spend their entire lives running from regrets and hiding their shame. When Cain sinned (Genesis 4), his guilt disconnected him from God’s presence and God said, “*You will be a restless wanderer on the earth.*” That describes most people today – wandering through life without a purpose.

2. Many people are driven by resentment and anger. Some internalize their anger and “clam up,” while others

“blow-up” and explode it onto others. Both responses are unhealthy and unhelpful. Let it go! The Bible says, “*To worry yourself to death with resentment would be a foolish, senseless thing to do (Job 5:2).*”

3. Many people are driven by fear. Fear has many causes. It also causes people to miss great opportunities because they are afraid to venture out. Instead they play it safe, avoiding risks and trying to maintain the statue quo. The Bible says, “*Well-formed love banishes fear. Since fear is crippling, a fearful life – fear of death, fear of judgment – is one yet fully formed in love.*”

4. Many people are driven by materialism. Their desire to acquire becomes the whole goal of their lives. They think more will make them happy. It will also make them feel more important and more secure. However, wealth can be lost instantly through a variety of uncontrollable factors. Real security can only be found in that which can never be taken from you – your relationship with God.

5. Many people are driven by the need for approval. The expectation of others drives many people. One key is to try to please everyone. Being controlled by the opinions of others is a guaranteed way to miss God’s purposes for your life. Jesus said, “*No man can serve two masters (Matthew 6:24).*”

Nothing matters more than knowing God’s purposes for your life, and nothing can compensate for not knowing them – not success, wealth, fame, or pleasure. Without a purpose, life is motion without meaning, activity without direction, and events without reason.

There are great benefits of living a purpose-driven life. They are:

a. Knowing your purpose gives meaning to life (Jeremiah 29:11).

b. Knowing your purpose simplifies your life (Isaiah 26:3).

c. Knowing your purpose focuses your life (Ephesians 5:17).

d. Knowing your purpose motivates your life (Philippians 3).

e. Knowing your purpose prepares you for eternity.

Are you preparing for eternity? Where will you spend eternity? What will you do in eternity? The Bible gives us the answers! If I can be of assistance please contact me at 634-7519 or 7472.

Hirsch behind wheel of 14th Trans HHD

Story and photo by Laura Kreider
Outlook Staff

Hoekstra Field was the scene of the change of command ceremony for the 14th Transportation Battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment May 6.

During her farewell speech, outgoing 14th Trans HHD commander, Capt. Angela Rak spoke to her former Soldiers and the crowd about her opportunity to lead, train and care for, in her opinion, some of the best Soldiers in USAREUR over the past 14 months.

“I am honored to have served as the commander of the outstanding Soldiers of the 14th Transportation Battalion,

Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment,” said Rak. “I trust that you all will continue to do great things under captain [Joshua] Hirsch.”

Incoming commander, Capt. Joshua D. Hirsch is no stranger to the 14th Trans Bn as he’s held positions in the 386th Transportation Detachment (Movement Control), was attached to the 173d Airborne Brigade and deployed to Kirkuk, Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, as the brigade Transportation Officer, and commanded the 495th Trans Det (MCT) for the past 14 months.

Help set Vicenza’s COLA rate

By Nicolas White
Housing Programs manager
Press Release

Do you want to have a say in setting Vicenza’s Cost of Living Allowance rate?

From now through June 17, a Living Pattern Survey is being conducted in communities across Europe – to include Vicenza.

All Soldiers – regardless of service affiliation – with command-sponsored dependents are strongly encouraged to participate. Spouses may also complete the survey on behalf of their military sponsor.

How can I participate?

To take the survey, log on to *https://www.perdiem.osd.mil/oscola/lps/germany/* and follow the instructions on the screen. The survey takes approximately 30 minutes to complete.

When you are asked for a survey ticket number, choose any random six-digit number you like. The survey is completely anonymous.

When you are asked for the location code, enter **IT073** – the Per Diem Committee’s code for Vicenza. Note that

when you are asked to choose a store where you do most of your shopping from a list, the list is NOT all-inclusive. If you shop somewhere else, simply click “Other” and enter the store name manually.

This store will then be available for all who take the survey after you, and more accurately reflect our actual shopping patterns.



What happens after I take the survey?

After the survey period is over, responses will be collated and analyzed by the Per Diem Committee back in the States. They will determine which stores are most popular in our community based upon your responses.

From that data, a Retail Price Schedule will be conducted. Prices for a “market basket” of items will be collected at the Vicenza military community’s most popular stores and sent back to the Per Diem Committee.

Based on this information, the Per Diem Committee will ensure Vicenza’s future COLA rates are equitably set and accurately reflect the actual purchasing patterns of our community.

This information is vital to making certain that Vicenza military members are not being short-changed for our local market conditions. Your participation will help make the COLA program a success!

Land Combat Expo art contest

U.S. Army Europe
Public Affairs
Press Release

U.S. Army Europe is holding a contest for artists to come up with a poster that reflects the theme: “USAREUR at War Today and Transforming for the Future”

The artwork should illustrate USAREUR’s contributions to the Global War on Terror, the latest in military technology, and preparations for the future.

All U.S. ID cardholders with authorized patronage may participate. Entries must be received by June 3.

The first-, second-, and third-place winners in each category will receive \$1,000, \$750 and \$500 respectively. A panel of art professionals and members of the command will select winners during the second week of June. Categories are:

- 1. Soldiers (active duty, Reserve and National Guard)
- 2. DoD civilians
- 3. Family members, age 13 and up
- 4. Military retirees

The judges will evaluate entries on four strengths:

- Storytelling ability – how well does the work illustrate the theme?
- Technical quality
- Originality
- Creativity.

The USAREUR commanding general and the Board of Directors will select one “Best in Show” artwork out of the first-place winners. This will be the centerpiece of the 2005 LCE advertising campaign and the artist receives an additional \$1,000.

Questions regarding entry rules or mailing instructions can be addressed to Steve Sanderson, competition coordinator at *stephen.sanderson@hq.hqusareur.army.mil*, or Arthur McQueen, alternate competition coordinator at *mcqueena@hq.hqusareur.army.mil*.

Professional business enterprises cannot participate.

How to submit: Each entrant must submit an Entrant Data Form attached to the back of the artwork.

Mail entries to either of these addresses:

HQ USAREUR PAO, c/o Steve Sanderson, AEAPA - Production, APO AE 09014 or:

Headquarters, USAREUR, Attn: OCPA (Mr. Sanderson), Romerstrasse 135 69126 Heidelberg, Germany

Entries become property of USAREUR and will not be returned. USAREUR is not responsible for loss or damage to entries.

Any entry may be used, altered or published as USAREUR and its designees see fit.

Vicenza High School Honor Roll

Congratulations to the students below for achieving excellence in education.

High Honors

The following Vicenza Middle and High School students had straight As for the third quarter:

12th Grade

Lauren Tomory

11th Grade

Chris Bender
Jillian Brown
Shannon Eldredge
Benjamin Franke
Denaris Green
Sheri Mahadeo

10th Grade

Crystal Buhler
Jessica Buhler
Megan Gafford
Adam St.Vincent

9th Grade

Nicole Bissett
Claire Malone

8th Grade

Ana Aguirre
James Bonnette
Zachary Cunningham
Kenesha Fairley
Jamie Kamiya
Anna Vallery

7th Grade

Callie Brown
Elizabeth Buffington
Darren Eldredge
Seth Franke
Thomas McGuire
Bianca Morrow
Matthew Williams

Honors

These Vicenza Middle and High School students had a grade point average of over 3.5 for third quarter:

12th Grade

Candice Askins
Rachel Bryan
Courtney Cox

Tristan Davis
Sarah Huffman
Martin Keating
Gary King
Sarah Malone
Nykole Norcross
Adam Smolonsky

11th Grade

Noel Fernando Jr.
Martin Ott
Grace Pemberton
Christopher Stepps
MaryCatherine Sughrue

10th Grade

Heidi Askins
Christopher Bell
Jessica Boydston
Eric Nupp
Alexandrya Savusa
Zackery Williams

9th Grade

Darryl Alexander
Heather Bender
Chakeira Gilbert
Christie Rawlins
Kyle Stammer
Vergilia Velez
Joseph Wiehe Jr.

8th Grade

Cristian Addison
Chelsea Ames
Kenneth Barteau II
Gretchen Carpenter

Ashley Dallmann
Lekendra Douglas
Sarah Graves
Natalie Hiles
Brian Kachonik
Christian Kight
Whitney (Helmick) Kimble
Katelyn O’Brien
Janette Prados
Andrew Ritchie
William Swaims
Phillip Wiehe
Jordan Williams

7th Grade

Miata Arroyo
Audra Bissett
Teresa Hann
Justin Lane
Shaun Mahadeo
Devin Nesmith
Valerie Stanley
Lauren Vanderlugt
Taylor Weik
Matthew Williams

Cougar Roll

Cougar Roll honors students whose grade point average has improved by .5 or more from quarter two to quarter three:

12th Grade

Adam Smolonsky

11th Grade

Jabreia James

Matthew Miller
Savanah Sleight
Tamika Smith
Travis Waters

10th Grade

Jesalyn Draper
Kourtney Evins
Anthony Gipson
Donte’ Gonzalez
D’Shayna Gonzalez
Ashley Kabonick
Derek Lain
Melissa Martini
Aubrey Stammerjohan
Niasha Tate

9th Grade

Richard Arambul
Ceslie Lopez
Samuel Owens
Steven Saddler
Celeste Viviani

8th Grade

Anna Beauchamp
James Littleton
Jereil McNealy
Joshua Powell
Sean Smith
Brad Werley
Phillip Wiehe

7th Grade

Gabriela Munoz
Devin Nesmith

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SETAF Commander

Maj. Gen. Jason Kamiya

22nd ASG Commander/Publisher

Col. Donald G. Drummer

Editor

Diana Bahr

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The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions for style, brevity and clarity.

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Soldiers surprise, fight Taliban

Fire Fight from page 1

Class David Cavataio, the Bullies’ platoon sergeant from Chicago. “We set up security and started pushing up.”

Soon after setting up an over-watch position, insurgent forces were spotted.

“When we got clearance and confirmation that they had weapons, we opened fire, but they opened up on us at the same time and the exchange started,” Cavataio said.

The plan was to systematically clear one of the nearby villages of danger, explained Craig.

“From the south part of the town, we began clearing the village from east to west,” said Craig. “There were high walls and locked doors everywhere.”

The Taliban had sealed the village to make it difficult for Coalition Forces to clear by barricading and locking all doors and gates. The platoon had to make use of ‘sappers’ (combat engineers who are specialists in clearing obstacles for Soldiers to follow through) to get through the mud hut maze.

The platoon, left with little choice, bypassed clearing the hamlet and pushed through to the edge of the village into an orchard.

Craig’s Soldiers received a volley of rocket propelled grenades wounding Pfc. Mathew King in the leg.

“The round didn’t explode,” said Craig. “The fins cut into his leg and the round landed 10 to 15 feet in front of me and the RTO [radio telephone operator].”

Craig and his men continued to move forward through withering machine gun fire seeking cover behind trees and rocks.

“I thought, ‘the only way we will get through this is if we push forward,’” said Craig. “It was raining branches in the orchard. My RTO tried to move forward and when he got up, a tree basically fell on him.”

The paratroopers were pinned down until a machine gunner put down enough suppressive fire for the Soldiers to move forward toward the enemy.

“Specialist Lewis fired a 200-round burst and that bought us a couple of seconds to ‘bum rush’ the objective,” Craig said. “We approached the enemy but we thought all the guys were already engaged because no one was responding.”

The element closed in on the enemy undetected, moving parallel to a sunken creek with steep rocky slopes.

As the team moved past the bunker to make a limit of advance, Capt. Dirk Riggerberg, Chosen Company’s

commander, moved into Choay’s old position between the wall and the bunker, where he received fire from an insurgent in a well-concealed position along the creek wall.

An alert M-249 Squad Automatic Weapon gunner moved to into position and ended the fight.

By the end of the battle, more than 17 enemy combatants had been confirmed killed by Chosen Company, nine captured and more possibly killed by the 2-503d Inf (Abn) scouts.

“I expected there to be stiff resistance but not as severe as this,” said Riggerberg.

Chosen Company’s first sergeant, though, said he wasn’t surprised by the enemies’ dedication.

“They’ve been fighting for so many years,” said 1st Sgt. Scott Brzak. “They have nothing to lose and everything to gain.”

The effect the battle has had on his Soldiers is a positive one, said Brzak.

“The Soldiers now know that they can depend on and trust the buddy to the left and right of them,” Brzak said. “They know their buddy will lay down their life for them. They also now know how the enemy operates and can pass this experience on to the rest of the company and the battalion.”

All wounded ANP and U.S. Soldiers were evacuated to Kandahar Airfield for medical treatment. They were reported in stable condition. Two U.S. wounded

Soldiers were treated and returned to duty. The other four Soldiers were transported to Landstuhl Medical Center in Germany for further treatment and are reportedly in stable condition.

The village leader was also detained after villagers reported him as a Taliban member.

A number of questions have been raised as to the significance of the battle. The ferocity with which the insurgent fighters defended their position is atypical of the hit and run and improvised explosive device tactics the Taliban had been using since being removed from power.

“This is going to force them to rethink their strategy,” Riggerberg said. “I think our tactics will force them to fight and die or surrender. I think we put them on their heels. They now know that the American Army still has the energy to hunt them down.”

(Editor’s note: The Army News Service added information to Pfc. Jon Arguello’s story from a CJTF-76 news release and telephonic reports from Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan.)

“I yelled ‘You’re on fire! You’re on fire!’ to the other truck.”

*— Sgt. Nick Pak
2-503d Brigade scout*

Community celebrates National Day of Prayer



Above: Dan Meyers, Christian music artist, sang for the crowd gathered in the Caserma Ederle Chapel May 5 to celebrate the National Day of Prayer. Leading off National Day of Prayer was the Ladies Ensemble, who sang several songs as participants found seats in the chapel. Col. Donald Drummer, 22nd Area Support Group commander, welcomed the gathering of Soldiers and civilians, and was followed by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Doug Hudson, 22nd ASG chaplain, who gave the invocation. Special prayers for our nation’s leader, our deployed service members, our military families and other groups were given by members of the community. This was followed by special musical guest, Dan Meyers, who sang for the crowd. Meyers also gave two free concerts for the community Friday and Sunday evenings. Chaplain (Col.) Ken Brown, V Corps chaplain, was the guest speaker. Following his 20-minute sermon, the crowd was invited to a luncheon in the chapel activity room. (Photo by Diana Bahr, Outlook editor)

Michigan Soldiers take ODT to new heights

Story and photo
By Chiara Mattiolo
Camp Darby Public Affairs

When Renzo Lodovici, Directorate of Public Works engineering technician, and Riccardo Acciari, DPW scheduler, coordinated the Overseas Deployment Training project, they couldn’t imagine how well and how fast the U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers from Michigan would complete the mission.

The Soldiers of the 1438th Engineering Detachment (Utilities), hail from Grayling, Mich. and arrived at Camp Darby April 26. During their 17 days on post, they and accomplished all missions assigned...and then some.

“The Soldiers from Michigan came here to do a few projects. They completed them quickly and professionally. We were very glad they came, and were willing to accept additional duties,” said Lodovici.

“Among the projects the group was to complete was the paving of the swimming pool with inter-block pavers, paving a road in the Ammunition Storage Area, as well as getting the American Beach ready for the opening, to include

landscaping and various maintenance,” explained Acciari.

When those missions were completed, the energetic group took on more tasks—to include some that weren’t assigned. This included construction of a partition in the S2 shop, fencing in an area behind the commissary, and then cleaning and painting the barracks they were staying in and, finally, they repaired some of the Outdoor Rec rental bicycles.

“When we were assigned this project, we all agreed to strive for the best, get as much publicity and congratulations, and hopefully be able to be reassigned to this area again in the near future,” said Capt. Jim Flowers, 1438th Eng Det. commander.

The Soldiers of the 1438th Engineering Detachment (Utilities) were awarded for a superior performance of duties during their ODT at Camp Darby in a ceremony that took place May 11.

“This is the first time that I am awarding a group of reservists for their ODT, but you guys did an excellent job here,” said Lt. Col. Charles Leamin, Installation commander. “What you did was amazing and has a very significant impact on our community, thank you for a job well done.”



Above: Spc. Jennifer Firmingham, 1438th Engineering Detachment, performs a bit of touch up before painting the partition that will define the S2 shop. Left: One of the projects the Soldiers from the 1438 Engineer Detachment, U.S. Army Reserve, undertook was to put interlocking pavers around the post pool. The insert show what the area looked like previously. Below: The Soldiers receive an award for Superior Performance from Lt. Col. Charles Leaming, Installation commander.



Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

Army officer paves way for fellow pacific islanders

By Elaine Wilson
Special to American Forces Press Service

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas - As people rise through the ranks, they are faced with more responsibility and added pressure to perform. While most leaders feel the heat only from their employees, Lt. Col. Evelyn Langford has more eyes upon her — 70,000 sets, in fact.

As the first American Samoan woman to reach the rank of lieutenant colonel in the Army, Langford has the high expectations, and support, of an entire island.

“It’s a great accomplishment, but I definitely feel the pressure,” Langford said.

Langford always has been a “fast burner.” Born at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., Langford and her five brothers and sisters traveled throughout the world during her father’s Air Force career. When she turned 14, her father retired and moved the family to American Samoa to be near family and friends.

Situated in the South Pacific Ocean, about halfway between Hawaii and New Zealand, the island was, at first, a culture shock for the modern family.

“It was an adjustment at first,” she said. “It’s not like the mainland, not as modern. But my family built a nice home and I really appreciated learning about my culture.”

Langford breezed through school, skipping a grade and graduating at 16. Unlike most teens, Langford knew exactly what she wanted to do.

“I always wanted to be in the military,” she said. “I grew up seeing how the military took care of my family; we never lacked for anything. My mother was always happy and content. I wanted to have something to do with it.”

She took the Armed Forces Vocational Aptitude Battery — the military entrance exam — her senior year and aced it with the highest score on the island. An Army recruiter, the only military representative on the island, came knocking almost immediately.

“He suggested I join the Reserves and ROTC at college,” Langford said. “I jumped at the opportunity.” After two years at the local community college, she graduated



Lt. Col. Evelyn Langford, assistant chief of staff for reserve affairs at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, is the first American Somoan female to reach the rank of lieutenant colonel. (Official U.S. Army photo)

with honors from Northwestern Oklahoma State University in 1986 with a biology degree and an Army commission in the Army Medical Service Corps.

She became a platoon leader, then a company commander, but was most proud of her stint as an Army instructor for the basic ROTC course - the first of its kind offered in American Samoa.

“There were a lot of opportunities to reach out to youth,” she said. “Many of them were intimidated by the exams or finances and felt they couldn’t achieve because of those reasons. I encouraged them to try, and let them know what the military could offer. I had to fight against a difficult mind-set.”

Her quest proved successful. Four of her students earned basic ROTC scholarships and went on to the University of Hawaii and Army careers.

Langford went on to serve in staff positions, including her present job as the assistant chief of staff for reserve affairs here, where she ensures dental support for mobilizing reservists and helps to keep

dental readiness a command priority.

A major career highlight, she said, was when she pinned on lieutenant colonel oak leaves in 2003 at a ceremony attended by the governor of American Samoa.

“It was an honor to have him come here,” she said. “But with the visibility comes the expectations: Will she make the next rank?”

Langford said she is just grateful to have made it this far. “I have a lot of gratitude for the people who encouraged me along the way,” she said. “I made mistakes and learned from them. If I’d let those things hinder me, I wouldn’t be here. Great mentors were put in my path.”

In turn, Langford also has assumed the role of mentor, particularly for American Samoans. She hopes her example will bring encouragement to others.

“I’ve seen very few American Samoan officers in the Army,” she said. “There are so many more that could do very well in the military but don’t even know the opportunities exist.” She tries to share those opportunities through speaking engagements back home.

“Things have changed,” Langford said. “There are other military service recruiters on the island now. And I’m seeing more American Samoans at military academies. Those advances wouldn’t be possible without education.”

She hopes her ongoing membership in Asian Pacific American Heritage committees will bring education to the community, as well.

“I enjoy bringing awareness of other cultures to the community,” she said. “Most people have a limited knowledge of the many cultures under the Asian Pacific American umbrella. There are Koreans, Vietnamese, Asian Indian, Chinese and Japanese and about 30 more nationalities.

It’s not just hula dancers.”

Although Langford has come a long way from American Samoa, the expectations and pressure of its people hit a lot closer to home.

“I’m going to go as far as I can,” she said. “I always try my best for my family, but also for the island of American Samoa.”

(Elaine Wilson is assigned to the Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs Office.)

More Asian Pacific American Heritage Month events set

Thursday the South of the Alps dining facility will feature food from Asia during the lunch hour.

Thursday is also the main event of the month. Join us at the Teen Center/Youth Pavilion from 3:45-6 p.m. for entertainment, food and more!

AAFES is holding a luau Saturday from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. with games, events and barbecue in the food court.

May 24 AAFES presents “Dances from the Philippines” at 11 a.m. at the post exchange.

May 28 AAFES will be holding a martial arts demonstration.

For more information on events, contact the EEO office at 634-7976 or 7914 or the EO office at 634-7093.



Spc. Nicholas Spano, 2d Battalion, 503d Infantry (Airborne), is served chicken in orange sauce by Patty Alvarado at the South of the Alps Dining Facility. The DFAC held a special lunch to celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month May 12, and will serve another meal in celebration Thursday from 11:30 a.m.- 1 p.m. (Photo by Diana Bahr, Outlook Editor)

Junior ROTC hosts an evening of pomp, promotions

Submitted by 10th Cadet Battalion
Vicenza High School Junior ROTC
Public Affairs
Special to the Outlook

Each year the 10th Cadet Battalion, Vicenza High School Junior ROTC, must conduct a formal event – either a ball or a Dining Out. This year marks the ninth year in a row the battalion has hosted a Dining Out.

This year the event was conducted May 5 at Club Veneto on Caserma Ederle and more than 110 Junior ROTC Cadets, parents, sponsors, dates, and guests attended.

The evening included a formal reception line, mixing of the grog, skits, a demonstration by the Drill Team, promotions and an awards ceremony.

One evening highlight was the promotion ceremonies.

Promoted were the new Cadet 2nd Lts. Noel Fernando, Chris Stepps and Francisco Lora.

Also promoted were Cadet Lt. Col. Sarah Malone, battalion commander; Cadet Master Sgt. Zachery Williams, and Cadet Pfc. Zachery Harmon.

Named as Superior Cadets were the Cadet Battalion Commander, Cadet Lt. Col.

Malone for Seniors, Cadet 2nd Lt. Fernando (for third year), Cadet Staff Sgt. Joey Flahaut (for second year), and the first year Superior Cadet was Cadet Sgt. Reagan Womble.

Cadet Master Sgt. Williams received the Daughters of the American Revolution Award for Junior ROTC.

SETAF Rear Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Weik presented the Association of the United States Army Award for Junior ROTC Excellence to Cadet 2nd Lt. Stepps.

VFW Post 8862 commander, Peter Luste, presented the Veterans of Foreign Wars Award to Cadet 2nd Lt. Lora.

Walk 4 Freedom validation time



By 22nd Area Support Group
Health Promotions
Press Release

It’s hard to believe, but 90 days have passed since our Soldiers left for Afghanistan and we began out Walk 4 Freedom.

Validation stations will be set up at the following dates and times:

Wednesday – 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. in the Fitness Center

Wednesday – 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Post Exchange**

Thursday – 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. in the Fitness Center

Friday – 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. in the Fitness Center

When you turn in your miles for validation, you can receive cool incentives.

Call the 22nd Area Support Group Health Promotions office at 634-8828 and make an appointment for your fitness assessment and receive 250 additional miles.

**No fitness assessment done at this location.

Out&About



By Dorothy Spagnuolo

Medieval events

The town of Sanguinetto is holding their annual medieval event ‘The Palio and Toro Festival’ Thursday through May 24.

Main events Saturday and Sunday: At 6 a.m. on both days chefs start cooking the ‘Toro’ on a spit. The meat is served daily, beginning at noon in food tents.

Saturday at 4 p.m. a medieval military camp will set up in the castle’s trench. At 8:30 p.m. watch a procession in costume in the market area; at 9 p.m. there is a medieval banquet inside the castle with music, jugglers, knights, archers, swordsmen and others.

Sunday starting at 9:30 a.m. the four palio teams meet in front of the castle and the presentation of the day’s program begins.

At 10 a.m. the market opens featuring more than 100 vendors. On other days, the market is only open in the evening. The food tents open at noon, followed at 3:30 p.m. with start of the Palio in the trench of the castle with medieval games, archers contest with bows, crossbow contest, an exhibition of flag throwers, and games for children.

The award ceremony is at 6:15 p.m. Sunday.

Full program and directions are at www.fierafestadeltoro.it in Italian only. Sanguinetto is located 72 km southwest of Vicenza.

Ferrara claims to hold the oldest Palio in the world every May.

In a tribute to the Renaissance, when Ferrara was capital, a months worth of exciting activities ensue, eventually leading up to the famous rides that take place the last Sunday in May as homage to St. George.

The main events to catch include: the historical procession Saturday which consists of more than 1,000 people: dames, lords, warriors, musicians and flag wavers wearing typical Ferrara costumes of the 15th century.

The procession takes place at 9 p.m. followed by the registration for the *Contrade*, (or districts) at 9:30 p.m.

May 29, the day of the Palio, four separate horse races are run on the historical Piazza Ariostea with a start time of 4 p.m.

Visit the Web site www.paliodi ferrara.it in English and Italian.

Exhibitions

The 6th edition of ‘Solar Expo’ will take place at the Vicenza exhibition grounds Thursday through Saturday.

Solar Expo is an international conference and exhibition on renewable energy, distributed generation and green building.

There will be representatives from bio-fuels, solar thermal, hydropower, windpower, diffused generation and hydrogen energy and fuel cells to name but a few.

Open daily from 9 a.m.-6:30 p.m., there’s an entrance fee of 10 Euro. The exhibition grounds are located a short distance from the Vicenza ovest autostrada exit.

The biggest all-round exhibition, the *83rd Campionaria*, is going on at the Padova exhibition grounds through May 22. Entrance is free.

You can find everything for the home, vacations, hobbies, sports, car, motorbike, garden furniture and swimming pools, camping equipment and more.

There are also demonstrations on spinning, horse riding, and music shows to name but a few.

Open weekdays from 4:30 p.m. to midnight and weekends from 10 a.m. to midnight.

To get to the exhibit, take the A4 autostrada east, exit at Padova est, and follow signs for ‘83rd Campionaria.’

If going by train you will find the grounds 500 meters from the Padova train station.

Vintage car race

Starting Thursday and ending Sunday, there will be 375 racing cars built between 1927 and 1957 streaming through many cities in a spectacular road race known as the ‘*Mille Miglia*,’ or 1,000 Miles.

The original ‘Mille Miglia’ event was held annually from 1927 to 1957. Revived in 1981, the race attracts hundreds of competitors from throughout the world.

The race start point is Brescia (west of Verona), and it goes through Bussolengo, Verona, Ravenna, Assisi, Florence, Bologna, Modena and Mantova.

For a complete list that gives full details of the race history, the competitors, times and route go to: www.millemiglia.it, which is also

in English.

People living or going to visit any of the cities above mentioned would be wise to check out the times that the vehicles will be going through the cities as roads could be blocked off for a period of time.

Volksmarch

A non-competitive march for those who love nature and want to enjoy is scheduled for July 3 in the Asiago area.

The distance is approximately 21 km (13 miles) and departs from Cogollo del Cengio and ends in Asiago.

There is also a possibility to participate in a relay race – the first part of the relay is about 8 kms of uphill running and the second part, 12 km, is with little rolling hills.

The departure time is 9 a.m. with a meeting time of 7:30 a.m. at Cogollo del Cengio.

Last year more than 15 participants were from SETAF. The route taken is that of a steam train that went through the mountain area from Cogollo del Cengio to Asiago long ago.

Point of contact for further information is Hussein Kara at 634-3919 or cellphone: 340-819-5825. Entry forms for the race are available at ITR office. The Web site, in Italian only, is www.lacerniera.it

Tiepolo’s copper plates

Thirty-three copper etching plates belonging to the Museo Correr collections are on exhibit in the Ca’ Rezzonico Museum, Venice.

These plates, which have never been shown together before, are displayed alongside etchings produced from them. The plates are invaluable because not only do they cast light on the way the etching technique was used, but they also provide an insight into the, often complex interplay of influences between the works of Giambattista and the two sons who were his pupils.

Open everyday 10 a.m.-6 p.m., but closed on Tuesdays, the last entrance is one hour before closing time. Entrance fee is 6.50 Euro.

Authorized swimming areas and facilities

22d Area Support Group
Community Policy Letter #04-03
Press Release

The following guidelines apply to all Army personnel in Italy, Department of the Army civilians, and family members when participating in water activities.

Swimming is only authorized in approved areas and facilities. Swimming areas and facilities are approved when:

- ◆Qualified lifeguards are on duty. The lifeguards possess a current American Red Cross Advanced Lfesaving Certificate or ARC Water Safety Instructor Certification or equivalent Italian certificate.
- ◆Sufficient life saving equipment, communications

equipment, first aid facilities, protective devices, etc., are available.

Swimming pools: All public or private swimming pools (including hotel and motel pools used with the permission of the management) are authorized swimming areas. Adult supervision of small children is required.

Sea beaches: All supervised ocean and sea beaches may be used for swimming and bathing unless specifically placed off-limits by the local commanders or local officials for reasons of health or safety.

Lakes and rivers: Lakes may be used when a designated swimming area exists that has an on-duty lifeguard and established hours of operation posted and enforced. Rivers will not be used as

swimming areas.

Commanders will ensure that the following requirements are implemented:

- ◆Personnel are briefed to swim only in authorized swimming areas.
- ◆Personnel will be informed about safe swimming and safe boating practices as it applies to swimming.
- ◆Personnel using any approved swimming area or facility will ensure proper and safe behavior of themselves, their family members and guests.
- ◆Parents will provide supervision of young children at all times.

Direct questions regarding this information to James Adams, SETAF/22d ASG safety manager, at 634-7045 or 8109.

Now Showing

Caserma Ederle Theater		
May 18	Cursed (PG13)	7 p.m.
May 19	Man of the House (PG13)	7 p.m.
May 20	Miss Congeniality 2 (PG13)	7 p.m.
	Be Cool (PG13)	10 p.m.
May 21	Miss Congeniality (PG13)	2 p.m.
	Diary of a Mad Black Woman (PG13)	7 p.m.
	Mllion Dollar Baby (PG13)	10 p.m.
May 22	Be Cool (PG)	2 p.m.
	Miss Congeniality 2 (PG13)	7 p.m.

Camp Darby Theater		
May 20	The Ring 2 (PG13)	7 p.m.
May 21	Are we there yet? PG)	7 p.m.

Movie Synopsis

CURSED - *Christina Ricci, James Brolin.* Ellie and her brother Jimmy are on their way home when they get into a car accident. While trying to help the other driver out of an overturned vehicle, the other driver is attacked by what Jimmy swears was a “huge man-like wolf”. Both Jimmy and Ellie end up scratched and possibly bitten by the creature. When they begin noticing strange physical effects and behavior—including both of them suddenly becoming more assertive socially—they begin to wonder if a werewolf has bitten them. If so, will they turn into werewolves, too?

MAN OF THE HOUSE - *Tommy Lee Jones, Cedric the Entertainer.* Hard-edged Texas Ranger Ronald Sharp is assigned to protect the only witnesses to the murder of a key figure in the prosecution of a drug kingpin — a group of University of Texas cheerleaders. Sharp must now go undercover as an assistant cheerleading coach and move in with the young women — possibly the most terrifying assignment in his 30-year career in law enforcement.

MISS CONGENIALITY 2: ARMED AND FABULOUS *Sandra Bullock, Regina King.* The story catches up with FBI agent Gracie Hart shortly after she successfully disarmed a threat against the Miss U.S. Pageant while working undercover as a contestant in Miss Congeniality. Having become a media celebrity following her heroic pageant exploits, Gracie has been spending more time lately at the salon than the shooting range, working the talk show circuit and promoting her book. When her friends, pageant winner Cheryl and emcee Stan, are kidnapped in Las Vegas, Gracie’s all-out efforts to jump back into action to save them puts her at loggerheads with the FBI top brass who don’t want to risk losing their mascot and fear she might not be up to the job anymore.

BE COOL - *John Travolta, Uma Thurman.*Chili Palmer sees a friend killed while he’s at lunch, and when he visits the wife of the deceased, he pitches himself as her new business partner, hoping to enter the music industry. Chili takes on a would-be pop star as a client but soon finds himself dealing with Russian mobsters, an incompetent manager, and other complications.

DIARY OF A MAD BLACK WOMAN - *Kimberly Elise, Steve Harris.* Devoted housewife Helen and powerful attorney Charles have a picture-perfect marriage. Just as Helen begins preparations to celebrate their 20th anniversary, Charles drops his bomb: he wants to divorce Helen for her best friend. Helen takes her belongings, and her wounds, back to her family, where a pot-smoking, gun-toting grandmother figure gives Helen the strength to heal.

MILLION DOLLAR BABY - *Clint Eastwood, Hilary Swank.* Frankie Dunn is a veteran boxing trainer who has devoted his life to the ring and has little to show for it; he’s estrangement from his daughter and a fighter he’s groomed into contender status has signed with another manager. Then, Maggie Fitzgerald enters his life and announces she needs a trainer. Frankie regards her as a dubious prospect, as she’s too old at 31, lacks experience, and has no technique. Finally won over by her determination, Frankie takes on Maggie, and as she slowly grows into a viable fighter, an emotional bond develops between them.

THE RING 2 - *Naomi Watts, Simon Baker.* Sequel to the horror flick The Ring, Naomi Watts reprises her role as Rachel Keller, who, six months after the events of the first film, moves to Astoria, Ore., with her son, Aidan, to escape their memories of what happened in Seattle. When a few locals start dying, however, and a strange videotape reappears, Rachel becomes aware that the creepy Samara is back and after Aidan.

ARE WE THERE YET - *Ice Cube, Nia Long.* Nick, a smooth operator, is trying to land a date with Suzanne. Problem is Suzanne, a divorcee, is stuck working in Vancouver and miserable because she misses her kids. Seizing the opportunity, Nick gallantly offers to make her wish come true - and his own in the process - by bringing seven-year-old Kevin and eleven-year-old Lindsey up from Portland, Oregon to be reunited with their mom. What Nick doesn’t know is that Suzanne’s children think that no man is good enough for their mom and will do everything they can to make the trip a nightmare.

Admission: Adults age 12 and over \$4, children \$2.

The Ederle Theatre box office opens one hour prior to show time.

Tickets to blockbuster shows are presold at Baskin Robbins.